

Miss Etoile B. Simons,
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Gertrude has just about passed the half-way mark in her eight months of dieting. She has lost a fraction of a pound less than fifty pounds. The doctors at Mayos expect her to reduce about twenty-eight pounds more in the next four months, after which, they will give her what is known as a sustaining diet. She is doing much better in her walking and uses her cane very little around home.

The death of Lola Brown did not mean anything to me, but now that you mention her, I recall a girl of dark complexion and a not particularly clear skin, who I think, was a teacher and probably is the one who has passed away.

Owen, Jr. was rejected for the Navy ^{Naval Reserve} solely on account of crooked teeth; as they speak of it, bad acclusion. In other words, he has inherited the Simons' teeth, which, at least beginning with our father, have been good and durable, but crooked and irregular. However, he was informed that a large number of those applying for enlistment in the Navy had been turned down for various causes and if they did not find a sufficient number to fill their quota, they would give him further consideration. Enlistment in the Navy would be a wise move for Owen because it would enable him to complete his course as a Chemical Engineer and would then probably put him in a position where his education and training would be of greater value to the nation.

Marilyn spent the Christmas holidays at home and left Sunday afternoon for Godfrey, Illinois to continue her work at Monticello.

I have just written to Julia, but am giving you some information that I did not give her, so you may if you wish, let her read this letter also.

With a lot of love, I remain

Your brother

WCS:JM